

amount is a small price to pay to protect the public and our national treasures in a manner that does not hold this local community hostage.

I urge my colleagues to examine these proposals and the funding of this plan. I am not suggesting that it necessarily needs to be the final answer, but it is an important first step to keep our Nation's capital and its citizens safe, healthy and economically secure while we assure that Timothy McVeigh and Osama bin Laden are not the dominant forces in American landscape architecture, public space and transportation for the next 50 years.

STRENGTHENING IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, President Bush signed into law the antiterrorism bill. This new law contains many provisions that will increase the ability of law enforcement, intelligence and other government agencies to combat terrorism. While this legislation is an important critical piece, although some may say controversial, in eradicating terrorism and ensuring the safety and prosperity of the American way of life to continue, the war, my colleagues, cannot be won without the key component of securing our borders from those who wish to cause us harm.

The values and ideals of this Nation are built on the contribution and sacrifices of immigrants who journeyed across the oceans for a better way of life that could only be found in this land. As such, America has and always will serve as a beacon of hope for those in oppressed other lands. It is, after all, the diverse nature of our people that has made America such a great country.

However, those who violate our Nation's immigration laws do more harm than good in furthering our country's values. And it is those people we must ensure that do not enter our country. Take, for example, what happened nearly 2 years ago when a lone U.S. Customs agent working at a remote border post in Northwest Washington foiled a terrorist attack on the Los Angeles Airport. An alert Customs Service inspector stopped and arrested Ahmed Ressam, a bin-Laden associate, in December of 1999 with a car load of bomb-making material before he was allowed to enter into Washington State from Canada. Unfortunately, our luck ran out with the tragic events of September 11.

It now appears that some of the terrorists involved in September 11 may have entered the U.S. from Canada, much as Ahmed Ressam attempted when he was arrested.

According to the INS records, 13 of the 19 hijackers entered the U.S. with valid visas. Three of the 13 remained in

the country after their visas had expired. Two were expected to have entered on foreign student visas and the INS has no information on the six remaining hijackers. As such, we can keep enacting legislation and, of course, spend more money; but efforts to counter terrorism will be futile unless we establish effective controls to secure our boarders and points of entry.

Each year there are more than 300 million border crossings in the United States. These are just the legal crossings that are recorded. While there are 9,000 border control agents working to keep America secure on the U.S.-Mexican border, there are less than 500 agents tasked with securing our 4,000-mile border with Canada.

To make matters even worse, out of the 128 ports on the northern border, only 24 of them are open around the clock. The remaining are not even manned, thereby allowing anyone with good or evil intentions to enter into the United States without even so much as an inspection, not to mention even a question or a record of their entry.

A recent report by the nonprofit organization, the Center on Immigration Studies, indicates that there are more than 8 million people now living in the U.S. illegally. About 40 to 50 percent of these violators are people who entered the United States legally, but did not leave with the expiration of their visas.

As it now stands, our immigration system needs increased and tighter controls. Currently our Nation has an unmonitored, nonimmigrant visa system in which 7.1 million tourists, business visitors, foreign students, and temporary workers arrive. To date, the INS does not have a reliable tracking system to determine how many of these visitors left the country when their visas expired.

Furthermore, among the 7.1 million nonimmigrants, 500,000 foreign nationals enter the United States on foreign student visas. Hani Hanjour, the person who was believed to have piloted the American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon is believed to have entered the country with a foreign student visa but never actually attended classes.

Mr. Speaker, our unsecure borders, along with inadequate record-keeping, have contributed to our inability to track terrorism in our country, or to prevent them from entering in the first place. I am encouraged by legislation being drafted in the Senate which aims to strengthen our border security in the fight to counter terrorism. Additionally, I am pleased that President Bush announced that the White House wants to tighten immigration laws and requirements for student visas to deter would-be terrorists from entering this country.

I urge my colleagues to make tightening our immigration laws and securing our borders a top priority in the war against terrorism.

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in response to the emergent threats of bioterrorism, Congress will take concrete steps in the coming weeks to strengthen our Nation's public health infrastructure. To fully prepare for the potential bioterrorist attacks, we will have to deal with a wide variety of public health issues including vaccinations and food safety and government stockpiling of antibiotics. In doing so, we must not forget to address the issue of antibiotic resistance.

The links between antibiotic resistance and bioterrorism are clear. Antibiotic resistant strains of anthrax or other bacterial agents would be extremely lethal biological weapons, and they are already a reality.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, during the Cold War, Russian scientists engineered an anthrax strain that was resistant to the tetracycline and penicillin classes of antibiotics. We can only assume that anthrax and other bacterial agents could also be engineered to resist antibiotics, including new valuable antibiotic therapies like Cipro.

Antibiotic resistance is also relevant to the threat of bioterrorism in other significant ways. The overuse and the misuse of antibiotics by physicians, patients, and hospitals renders bacterial agents more resistant to the antibiotic drugs that they are exposed to and could leave the Nation poorly prepared for a biological attack.

It is a vicious cycle because the threat of bioterrorism can lead to the overuse and the abuse of antibiotics, people taking Cipro when they do not need it, for example, which in turn could make these antibiotics less effective against the agents of bioterrorism.

During the last couple of months, thousands of Americans have been prescribed the antibiotic Cipro because of a legitimate risk of exposure to anthrax. That use of antibiotics is appropriate. But the thousands more who have sought antibiotic prescriptions for Cipro without any indication of need or even a risk of infection can be a problem.

The widespread use of Cipro will kill bacteria that are susceptible to the drug, but will leave behind bacteria that are not. Those bacteria that are not killed will then have the opportunity to thrive and develop an even greater resistance to Cipro, requiring an alternative antibiotic to kill them and diminishing the overall effectiveness of Cipro.

Many pathogenic bacteria that cause severe human illnesses are already resistant to older antibiotics like penicillin, as we all know. That is one reason newer antibiotics like Cipro are used to treat dangerous infections.

With diseases like anthrax, it is important to find an effective therapy quickly. Any delay can result in the death of a patient, or in the case of a larger exposure, in the deaths of thousands of individuals. If the U.S. and the rest of the world begin using Cipro haphazardly, that antibiotic could lose its effectiveness also.

□ 1245

To adequately prepare for a bioterrorist attack, State and local health departments must be equipped to rapidly identify and respond to antibiotic-resistant strains of anthrax and other lethal agents.

And to ensure the continued efficacy of our antibiotic stockpile, we must isolate emerging antibiotic-resistant pathogens, track antibiotic overuse and misuse, and monitor the effectiveness of existing treatments over time.

Surveillance also provides the data needed to prioritize the research and development of new antibiotic treatments.

Drug-resistant pathogens are already a growing threat to every American. Examples of important microbes that are rapidly developing resistance to available antimicrobials include the bacteria that cause pneumonia, ear infections, meningitis, and skin, bone, lung or bloodstream infections.

That list also includes food-borne infections like salmonella, and the Nation's food supply could be a future target of bioterrorism.

Under last year's Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act, sponsored by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), Congress authorized a grant program that would equip State and local health departments to identify and to track antibiotic resistance.

To build upon this already authorized program, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and I have asked the Committee on Appropriations to include at least \$50 million for this grant program in the Homeland Security Supplemental Appropriations bill. I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support that request.

Let our appropriators know that this funding is critical to the viability of our main weapons against bioterrorism and other infectious diseases now and in the future.

H.R. 2887, PEDIATRIC EXCLUSIVITY BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a bill that may be coming to the floor in the very near future. It is called the H.R. 2887, the Pediatric Exclusivity bill. It was passed by Congress in 1997 to encourage drug

companies to do studies in how their drugs would affect young people, those people under 18. Unfortunately, before this bill, drug companies did not necessarily take into consideration a drug's effect upon children 18 and younger, so Congress granted them a pediatric exclusivity which would allow them to extend their patent for another 6 months to do a study.

Now, when they get done with this study, what happens to the study? It goes to the FDA and sits there, but yet the drug company gets the extension of the patent.

From that study, we learned certain things, such as the dosage of medicine to be given and symptoms we should look for. What we found, since 1997, is that 33 drugs have been granted pediatric exclusivity. Of the 33, 20 of them have done label changes. The other 13 have not. Why not?

The problem we are concerned about is why we would grant pediatric exclusivity prior to receiving the study. We should wait and not grant pediatric exclusivity until after we have the study, we know what the dosage recommendation should be, and then the product is labeled for pediatric use according to the study. So what we want to see is that the grant of pediatric exclusivity is tied into not only a study but also the necessary label changes.

It only makes sense. The doctors, the patients, their families should know what was found in those studies and what they need to know to make sure that they are administering the drug in a proper way to young people.

The goal of pediatric exclusivity, the FDA has been quoted as saying, is the labeling. That is why when the bill comes to the floor we would like to offer an amendment which would tie the grant of exclusivity necessarily to labeling changes. As I said, there have been 33 pediatric exclusivity drugs, but only 20 of them have changed their labels. What about the last 13?

Currently, the exclusivity period is given only for doing a study. For the safety of our children, for the health care profession, and for all families, we should change this. Under our proposed amendment, all new drugs must complete the labeling requirement before the product is marketed.

I cannot understand why we allow drug manufacturers to undertake a pediatric study, but not provide parents and doctors with the results they need to make informed decisions to properly use and dispense the drugs. As the FDA says, the goal of pediatric exclusivity is labeling, and we cannot lose sight of that.

We went on the FDA Web site and they listed the drugs with the pediatric exclusivity. As seen on this chart, the first one, Lodine, Etodolac Lodine, 9 months after the pediatric exclusivity was granted, they changed their label. The labeling says it is now appropriate for young people 6 to 16, but the dose in younger children is approximately two times lower dosage than is recommended for adults.

Now, would the doctor not want to know that before he gives Lodine, since it is used for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, that the recommended dose is two times less than what is given for adults? The manufacturer was granted the pediatric exclusivity on December 6, 1999, yet the information did not get out to the doctors and patients and their families until August.

Let us take this one right here. BuSpar. It was approved on May 22 this year for pediatric exclusivity. Two months later the labeling change comes out. And what did it find? The safety and effectiveness were not established in patients below the age of 18. In this drug here, they got the pediatric exclusivity, and 2 months later they had to change their label to let people know there really was no advantage. In fact, the safety and effectiveness was not established. I think that would give a red light to doctors and patients that maybe this drug is not doing what it is supposed to be doing.

This one on the bottom, the Propofol Diprivan. Take a look at it. It is for anesthesia. When we take a look at it, it says it may result in serious bradycardia. Propofol is not indicated for pediatric ICU sedation, as safety has not been established. Now, if I was a medical professional, I am sure I would want to know this.

Why does it take 18 months after the grant of the pediatric exclusivity to get the information out to the health care professionals?

If we look closer at this, the incidence of mortality, it is 9 percent versus 4 percent. So there is twice as much chance of a deadly accident occurring with this drug as when it was given in the old form. Again, it takes 18 months to get this information out.

So, again, before we grant pediatric exclusivity to a pharmaceutical such as this, should we not have the labeling change so we know what it is going to do to the patient, so the doctor knows what dosage he should recommend? That is the whole idea behind the labeling amendment. That is what we want to see be a part of the exclusivity bill.

It is a good bill, with good intent, but we have to finish the job. Now that we have had it on the books for 4 years, we have seen the shortfalls. So let us change the label so everybody is informed about the value of these drugs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.